

In the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please insert the following paragraph as the first paragraph of the specification:

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of Application No. 09/868,989, filed June 22, 2001 and assigned a filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 371 on October 2, 2001, which is the National Stage of International Application No. PCT/FR99/03272, filed December 23, 1999, which claims priority to French Application No. 98/16328, filed December 23, 1998. Application No. 09/868,989 is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.